

Appendix III

Vide Answer to Question No. 104

Statement, by caste, of volunteers in the Anchal Department appointed by the Present Anchal Superintendent.

Hindus

Brahmins (Malayala)	...	Nil
" (Others)	...	2
Ezhavas	...	5
Kammalas	...	1
Kshatriyas (Malayala)	...	Nil
Nadars	...	Nil
Nayars	...	6
Pulayas	...	Nil
Vellalas	...	1
Other deperessed classes	...	2
Other Hindus	...	Nil

*Mussalmans**Christians*

Protestants	...	3
Roman Catholics (Latin rite)	...	Nil
(Syriac rite)	...	3
Syrians" (Jacobite)	...	16
" (Mar Thoma)	...	14
Others	...	Nil

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.

PRESIDENT : The House will now pass on to the discussion of resolutions.

RESOLUTION RE SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER TO THE COASTAL PAKUTHIES OF ONATTUKARA.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution :—

" This Council recommends to the Government that steps be taken to supply drinking water to the inhabitants of the coastal pakuthies of Onattukara."

Sir, what I wish to impress upon Government and this Council, is the absolute necessity of supplying drinking water to the localities in which drinking water is now not available. The Pakuthies which I have mentioned in this resolution consist of the whole of the Arattupuzha Pakuthi, the southern half of the Thrikkunnappuzha Pakuthi and parts of Putupalli, Karunagapalli and Kulasekharapuram Pakuthies.

Sir, these tracts lie on the western side of the lake—salt water lake—and on the eastern side of the Arabian sea. The people who inhabit these lands are not in very affluent circumstances and they live by the industry of fishing and coir manufacture. They have usually to get good water from the eastern side of the lake; and they have to go

[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan]

about one and a half or two miles in boats to get this water. The population of this area, I think, is not less than 20,000. And it is highly necessary that Government should pay attention to the supply of good drinking water which is absolutely essential for the sustenance of their lives.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the extent of this area, length and breadth?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): The length will come to about 10 to 12 miles and the breadth on an average about half a mile.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): Has the member any idea of the cost of this scheme?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I do not know which scheme should be adopted by Government. In certain places they can sink wells sufficiently deep which will provide good water; and I learn that in certain other places it will be necessary to supply drinking water from some tank in Panmana or Chavara by means of pipes. It seems that the people of the locality enquired of Messrs. Braithwaite & Company's agents, when they were working at the Neendakara bridge. They were told that it would cost about Rs. 30,000. As far as Thrikunnappuzha and Arattupuzha are concerned, I think, by sinking a number of wells the demand could be met.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Is it lack of water or lack of drinking water?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): There is no good drinking water at all.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): No water?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): There is salt water.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): If wells are sunk, the well-water also would be brackish?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): When Mr. Vipin, the former Chief Engineer, was in office, he visited some of these places and stated that if wells were dug sufficiently deep there was chance of getting good water. I am not going to say whether the pipe-system or well-system would be more advantageous to the people and to Government.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): What is the length of the lake which they have to cross for getting good water?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): The breadth of the lake will be narrow.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): Average?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I think the average would be about one or one-and-a-half miles, and in certain other places, six or seven furlongs. One can imagine what the difficulties of these poor people will be, during the rainy and stormy season to get drinking water, when they have to cross the lake at the risk of their lives.

Sir, it is absolutely necessary that some provision should be made for this purpose. Of course, suggestions are made for the sinking of certain wells in the Thrikunnapuzha and Arrattupuzha Pakuthies. But the progress in that direction has been very slow. We find that some provision has been made in the budget for sinking wells in non-municipal areas. But I do not know how much of that amount is to be spent. With regard to certain wells that were proposed to be sunk in Thrikunnapuzha and other Pakuthies, I know that even the land acquisition proceedings take one or two years, and I do not know whether they are yet completed.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): I believe the member means this scheme as a reproductive work.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): No; drinking water should be supplied free of cost.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): As a means which will bring revenue to Government?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): No, no. The people there are poor. They do not get enough return for the tax they pay now. I may say, that in that land, there is not even an inch of road or any amenities enjoyed by the people of other places. It is surrounded by water. They have not got even an inch of road they want some roads. When even such small convenience is not available for them, it will be hard to impose cess for drinking water.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): They have got sufficient number of canoes which is perhaps more useful in that locality.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): People who can afford may have canoes. Those who cannot afford may have to hire canoes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): By that way their wants are satisfied I suppose?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): No, their wants are not sufficiently satisfied. That is my complaint now.

Sir, I have included these two places because I personally know that there is real want in these places. With regard to Arrattupuzha and Thrikunnapuzha they are in the Kartikapalli taluk. In regard to other places my attention has been drawn at certain public meetings held in Putupalli for this purpose.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Is my friend aware that wells on the sea coast at Alleppey have very good drinking water?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I do not know; I am not a geologist.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Is he aware of the fact that wells are generally brackish if sunk in sea coasts?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Yes. It is. And I have submitted many instances to Government.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then, how do the people manage now?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): That is what I said. They cross the lake in canoes and take water from the eastern side of the lake and somehow or other manage with that supply.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Does my friend suggest as an experimental measure that some deep wells may be sunk?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): That is, it appears, what Mr. Vaipan suggested. He suggested that if deep wells are sunk water will come from sufficiently low strata of earth and will be pure.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Have such wells been tried, at least one?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I do not think any such well has been sunk. Some proceedings were taken. I do not know whether the process has been completed.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): If the attempt is successful I suppose the maintenance may be left to the Sanitary Department as in other places?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): There is no objection.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): May I know who made the attempt?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I have already said that the people are not in very affluent circumstances. With regard to the northern half of the Thrikunnapuzha Pakuthi, I think there is not much difficulty. So, I place this resolution for the consideration of the House.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I rise to second the resolution of Mr. Damodaran Asan. I do hope, when seconding this resolution, that Mr. Asan will admit that there are other pakuthies also which are in need of drinking water and that they may also be supplied with drinking water.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Surely, most gladly.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): There are tracts which are not exactly coastal, but a bit in the interior of the Quilon taluk, known as Perumpuzha, a place sufficiently in the interior where you cannot get good drinking water. The people there, are also clamouring for wells. In the hope that the resolution will not be restricted to Onattukara, I will make a personal request to Mr. Asan to make it sufficiently wide for these people also, whom I represent, to get good drinking water.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): Does the member mean that no water is available in the mainland?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Such absurd propositions will never be represented. For, how can people live if no water is available?

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): Will they not get water if wells are dug?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Very deep wells have to be dug, and ordinarily people cannot afford to do that, since such deep wells will cost heavily.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): I suppose if the wells are dug sufficiently deep the water obtained would be good drinking water?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes. I do not know whether Neendakara will come under the limit proposed by the mover of the resolution. But, there also there is real want of good drinking water. I too have received copies of the memorials sent up by the people of this locality. The memorials are very moderately worded and contain practical suggestions; and the real wants of the places have been set forth in the memorials by persons who know something about such sanitary works. I do hope that the Government will pay prompt attention to this absolute necessity of the people.

Some of my friends have been asking me how, if there was no water in the locality, the people lived there. Very often they live by drinking bad water. And, in the memorials I have referred to they have shown by statistics that, on account of the want of good drinking water, the health of the people has been very badly affected and that the age of mortality in the localities has become very low in recent years. Years ago, there was not so much difficulty, in these localities, for good drinking water. To some extent, good water was available there. But, in recent years, by some change in the course of the current of water in the lake, or by some action of sea water, some erosive action—I do not exactly know what it is—it has become very difficult to get pure water there. Once upon a time, the people were getting good drinking water in these localities, and they were very flourishing. Now, they get only brackish water due to some change wrought by nature. I want to give all my support to this resolution; and I hope the Government will do everything possible for supplying this human necessity to a large section of the people of this country.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, I also support the motion. In doing so, I wish to bring to the notice of this House, certain very important facts connected with the matter contained in the resolution. It is several years since representations were being sent up to the Government by the people inhabiting the coastal regions in Onattukara. Government, as is usual with them in such matters, took very prompt steps in responding to the representations made by

[Mr. S. Krishna Pillai] : The Chief Engineer, the Land Revenue Commissioner, the Dewan Peishkar, the Tahsildar, every one of these Government officers was very vigilant, very keen on the matter; and they visited the place at once. They visited the place not once but half-a-dozen times; and I believe they must have drawn all the T. A. allotted for them. They were also very vigilant in sending up their reports. But, as is usual with Government in regard to such reports, these reports, I understand, have been shelved. I sent up an interpellation in regard to this matter; and I am told that that did not reach the Government in time or that there was some other defect in it, so that, from the half-a-dozen sheets of paper sent to me this time I found that this question of mine did not find a place in the notices of questions of this session of the Council. In spite of the reports submitted to Government by their own officers, the Government have not chosen to think seriously of doing anything on the lines suggested in the reports. Sir, because some of the officers of Government have satisfied themselves that it is a real need so far as the people of the localities are concerned, because they have drawn all the T. A. they were entitled to, and because they have sent up to the Government their reports on the matter, the people of the locality are not going to get a drop of good drinking water. Something more tangible must be done for them; and that can be done only if the Government have a more sympathetic heart for the people. As my friend has suggested, the people inhabiting the localities are very poor. But, though poor, I believe they also contribute their quota to the taxes realised by Government. Some of them are land-owners; the rest are sea-going people. So, whether as land-owners or as fisher-folk, they pay some amount of money to the State coffers. It does not appear why the Government have not till now done anything more than getting reports on the matter. The Chief Engineer suggested that deep wells might be sunk. Government could have at least tried a single experiment in that direction in one or other of these places.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Has the boring machine been applied in this part of the country?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : I am told that it lies in the Workshops and Stores Division and does not work properly now.

Sir, this is not a matter which can be calmly thought over and conveniently taken up. It is a very serious matter. Sir, all of us are human beings, and we know that good drinking water is indispensable for the subsistence of every human being.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*) : Roughly, what will be the cost of sinking a well in these localities?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : I myself want to ask that question to the Chief Engineer when he stands up to speak on this resolution.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): I just want to have a rough idea of it.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): My own impression is that the cost will depend upon the depth which the Chief Engineer says these wells must have in order that the water may be good. I am not myself certain about that. My own impression is that not more than Rs. 300 would be required for each well.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Is that all?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): That is all, unless the Chief Engineer says that boring has to be done to the very centre of the earth as it were.

Sir, a single experiment could have been tried in any one of these localities.

About seven or eight years ago, the people living in these localities used to get good drinking water from the wells that they had themselves sunk there in their gardens. Of course, these wells are not very deep. As Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai suggested, owing to some action of sea-water, some gulf-stream or some under current, owing to the washing off of the mud-bank near the sea, the water in their wells, which used to be good in former days, has now become unfit for drinking purposes. About a couple of miles to the west of Puthupalli, Karunagapalli and other places, there was a mudbank which separated these parts from the sea. It seems that, since this mud-bank has been washed away, there is now an on-rush of sea-water into the land with the result that the water in these wells, which was once good for drinking purposes, has now become brackish. That is the theory put forth by the people living in the locality. It appears to be somewhat reasonable also; because, the mud-bank, which we used to see there once upon a time has now disappeared.

Now, Sir, whatever be the cause, the fact remains that the people of the place do not now get good drinking water there.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was good drinking water really available there?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Yes; and that was the reason why people lived there. After having gone there, settled themselves there, after having made all their investments there, they now find it extremely difficult to pull on there owing to the want of good drinking water. The males go away to the west early in the morning for catching fish. The females have to go to the east for fetching good drinking water. The children are left alone in the huts till either of these come back hours hence. My friend Mr. Asan stated that they were bringing good water from the eastern side of the lake. That is not quite correct. After going to the eastern side of the lake they have to go about a mile and a half in the interior where alone there are wells with good water. And even there, there are caste disabilities. These poor people are Arayas and therefore are not permitted to draw water from the private wells there which belong to high-caste Hindus.

[Mr. S. Krishna Pillai.]

That is another difficulty. Therefore, the females have to take their pots, cross the lake, walk about a mile and a half into the interior after crossing the lake, wait there till they are served by the owners of the wells and then return home to look after their hungry children. Probably, if they leave their homes early enough they would be able to return by about 11 A. M., with good water, in about a couple of pots, which they have to conserve till the next day.

Sir, I may be able to give more harrowing details about the sufferings of these poor people. But I do not want to take up more time. All that I submit is that there is very great necessity for doing something substantial in this direction. I hope the Government would come forward with their full support and sympathy and would do something tangible as early as possible. With these words, I support the resolution of Mr. Asan.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I support the resolution with certain reservations. I admit that there is great need for good drinking water in the coastal villages of Onattukara. As has been pointed out by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, there are also other villages near Quilon, particularly to the south of Quilon, where there is scarcity of good drinking water. There are the villages of Perumattura, Kayikkara, and Nedunganda lying exactly like Onattukara between the backwater and the sea. And, considering the extent of such territory, I should say that there is more of such tracts elsewhere than in Onattukara where the people suffer for want of good drinking water. I would not waste the time of the House by laying stress on the necessity for getting good drinking water. I would just say a word about the financial aspect of the question, which is most important now.

The villages which I have mentioned are not like the poor villages which Mr. Asan has the misfortune to represent. The people living in the villages which I have mentioned are fairly rich people and they can well afford to pay even a portion of the capital outlay.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Then, why not they sink their own wells?

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): The mere sinking of wells is not enough for getting good water. The people there have been digging wells very deep, and still they have not been able to arrive at any strata which would give good water. The only course, therefore, so far as the people of these villages (which I have mentioned) are concerned, is to pump up water from the other side of the backwater and to take it across the backwater.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Did the people there try tube-wells?

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): Yes, tube-wells also were a failure in the matter of getting good drinking water.

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): എത്രമാളി താന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്?

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): About fifty feet; that was not enough.

Sir, I consulted some engineers as to the cost of the scheme that I mentioned a while ago. They said that it would not involve more than Rs. 50,000. If that is all the outlay necessary, I am prepared to undertake, on behalf of the people of these villages, to contribute half of it, provided the Government would kindly contribute the other half. Of course, the rich people in these villages have their own canoes by means of which they now get their good water from the other side of the lake as Mr. Asan explained. But, all the people there are not rich and they cannot own or even hire canoes for this purpose. They suffer very much for want of good drinking water.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Is there enough good drinking water on the eastern side of the lake to meet the requirements of the people in these villages?

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): We shall have to resort to some artificial means, some tank or reservoir; there are no natural resources there. A reservoir there may not cost much as, on the eastern side of the lake where we now get good water, we have not got to dig deep for getting good water.

I understand from another member here that there are other villages in North Travancore also where there is this difficulty. An officer of the P. W. D. may therefore be deputed by Government to see these places in the different parts of the State and to report to Government as to the varying degrees of necessity, the places being arranged in the order of urgency of the need. Government may then take up village after village and make arrangements for the supply of good water to the people, having in view also the readiness of the people to come forward to help the Government in the work.

With these words, I support the resolution.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I also wish to say a word about this resolution. The resolution relates only to some parts of Onattukara, one of the most prosperous parts of the State. What I wish to bring to the notice of the House is that this is not a difficulty particularly relating to Onattukara alone. There are many other parts of the State that also stand in need of some provision for the supply of good drinking water. I may refer, for instance, to some tracts in South Travancore. We know, Sir, that during the last cholera epidemic, one of the chief obstacles that stood in the way of the epidemic being successfully fought was the want of good drinking water. That has been a standing grievance with the people in many parts of the State.

Sir, I put a question in regard to the boring machine. I really wanted to know how far the boring operations have been successful. We read of something being done by the Industries Department by utilising this boring machine and finding out currents of water under the ground. I do not know whether the experiment, conducted by means of this boring machine, has been, to any extent, fruitful.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member know that no boring can now be done with the help of the machine?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I do not believe it. Either the Department of Industries has been giving false information in its Reports, or the boring machine with them is in perfect working condition. Because, I read from the Report of the Industries Department that that boring machine is being used from year to year.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Who is in charge of boring, the Department of Industries, or the P. W. D.?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I think it is the Department of Industries that conducts the boring operations.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member know that it is an un-portable machine that the Department has? It cannot be easily transported from place to place.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That may be. My statement is based on the report as to what was being done in South Travancore. I just want to know whether similar operations were conducted in Onattukara also.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member know that the South Travancore boring was done without the aid of the boring machine?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I do not know that. I speak subject to correction. I believe it was done with the help of some boring machine. I know that nothing substantial was done. I want to get some information on the matter.

Sir, this is a very serious matter; and, so far as South Travancore is concerned, the situation is very serious. I do not myself know much of Onattukara. But, we have been told enough to show that something must be done to improve the condition of things there. I therefore fully agree with my friend, Mr. Govindan, that a survey with reference to this matter may be conducted.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member know that such inspections of the localities have already been conducted by the Officers of Government and that reports have also been submitted to Government?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Even if a re-survey is necessary, my point is that something must be started at once. I believe there are other places also which have not been surveyed and about which there are no reports before the Government. I do not suggest that Onattukara should wait till the whole re-survey is over. In places in regard to which all the necessary information is even now available, the work may be taken up immediately. The object of the survey which I recommend is mainly to find out the places where there is real need for good drinking water.

In speaking on this very big problem, I may also bring to the notice of this House a small matter relating to the supply of drinking water in a

portion of the Trivandrum town itself. We know there are two bridges over the canal in the western part of the town, the Vallakkadavu and the Chackai bridges. Between these two bridges, on both sides of the canal, there are places where good drinking water is not available. The people have to cross the canal for getting good water; and for that purpose they have to use either of the two bridges that I have mentioned, or swim across the canal. And, the bridges are nearly two miles apart. I brought the question to the notice of the Road Board. I had to bring this matter specially to the notice of the Dewan while he was presiding over the Finance Committee. I was somehow able to get provision made in the Budget for the year 1106, for a foot-bridge across the canal in a place between the two main bridges I have spoken of, so that the poor people may conveniently cross the canal and get good water, without being forced to walk more than a mile to reach one or other of the two bridges. But, the provision was not utilised. It was only for a thousand rupees. The Department has not been able to carry out this small work so useful to the people. I think this amount had to be surrendered. This year also, I particularly asked my friends who are on the Finance Committee, to see that provision is made again for this foot-bridge; and they have succeeded in doing it. We are now in Dhanu, Sir, and I understand the amount has been surrendered this year also. If this is the way in which the Government are going to supply good drinking water to the poor people in the country, how are they going to satisfy the needs of the people of Onattukara? After all, it was a matter of a thousand rupees. I do not think the Government can say that this amount had to be surrendered because of economic depression or of retrenchment. Especially during monsoon, when the canal is high, the people find it very difficult to cross it and get drinking water. They have to walk more than a mile to one of the two big bridges and then cross the canal and bring good water. I do not think anybody can expect the poor women to swim across the canal, particularly during the monsoon when the canal would be full. I thought of bringing the small matter to the notice of this House just to point out the indifference of the Government and their officers in regard to the needs of the people. Sir, this is one of the matters in which sympathy—a very large measure of it is wanted on the part of the Government and their officers. If that is lacking nothing can be done. How is it possible to infuse sympathy in our officers? If that is possible, a good deal of good work can be done.

I have very great pleasure in supporting the resolution. I hope some effective measures would be adopted by Government to supply drinking water to the people inhabiting places where good drinking water is not now available.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvanzad*): Was much sympathy evident on the part of the Retrenchment Committee?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I am not sure whether I should answer that question now. Anyhow, I may inform the House that, although the Financial Secretary told the House yesterday that

[Mr. A. Thanu Pillai.]

generally we arrived at unanimous conclusions, there *are* matters on which the non-official members of the Retrenchment Committee, just like those of any other committee of the Council, have not been able to agree with the official members.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Has the Retrenchment Committee approved of less urgent expenditure?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): This question too is not easily answered. I cannot say. We considered some Departments. There, we tried to effect some retrenchment. As the Financial Secretary observed, as far as possible, we try to come to unanimous conclusions. But, there have been certain points on which we could by no means agree fully. The Financial Secretary was not therefore quite correct when he said that we arrive at unanimous conclusions. The non-official members can never forget the real interests of the people. I do not say that the official members deliberately forget it. Their angle of vision, probably owing to habit, is, in many cases, different from that of the people. Therefore, there *are* such differences of opinion in the Retrenchment Committee also.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): How did my friend Mr. Thanu Pillai understand the question put to him by Mr. Madhavan Pillai? Did he not refer to the sympathy of the Committee with the poor officers whose salaries the Committee sought to reduce?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I have not clearly understood Mr. Madhavan Pillai's question?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): I beg the member's pardon, Sir. And, he was answering that question.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): We try to be as sympathetic with the officers as with the people. The officers also should do it. Sir, I may say that it is a very important matter. If cholera breaks out in South Travancore once again, I don't know what the situation would be. So, it is a matter of rural water supply. Fortunately, you cannot say that the whole State is wanting water. There are large tracts of land in the State where we are well off in this matter compared with many other parts of India.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Does the member think that with the introduction of Village Panchayats such defects can be remedied?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): If we establish Village Panchayats in every part of the State these defects can be remedied, of course with Government help. But when are the Government going to establish Village Panchayats in every part of the State?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does not the member know that some provision is made in this year's Budget?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): After all, what is that provision? With this small provision, will the Onattukara people be supplied with good water? That is what the provision amounts to. Government can allot large sums of money to establish these Village Panchayats throughout the State.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member know that even that sum has been surrendered?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I do not know that. It is for the Financial Secretary to answer that question. This matter did not come before the Retrenchment Committee. I do not think that this sum will be surrendered. We very badly want to start rural reconstruction work and naturally that would meet a situation like this. But it will take a very long time for these Village Panchayats to be established throughout the State. We cannot afford to wait till then. Good drinking water is very necessary and, as already stated, another outbreak of cholera in South Travancore can be expected before long, if this state of things is allowed to continue. There may be difference of opinion, but that has nothing to prevent it.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Where is the difference of opinion with regard to that?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): There is another aspect of this matter. We are trying to extend the operations of the Public Health Department. That Department, Sir, will do no serious business unless Government are prepared to supply the bare necessities of life, namely, good drinking water. We have all unhealing manner of diseases. Good drinking water is essential. So, the work of the Government is to see that good drinking water is supplied throughout the State. In areas where there is no water, what can the Department do? Whatever that comes into the stomach will affect the human system. Sir, from every point of view, this resolution has to be accepted and extended in its application to many places.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Will Mr. Thanu Pillai object to the Sanitary Commissioner being provided with funds for sinking wells throughout the country?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I do not see why I should object to any particular officer being provided with funds if the work can be well done. I am not sure whether the Sanitary Commissioner is the officer just fitted to sink wells. I think he is not. Does it not require engineering skill?

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): But who should determine where to sink wells?

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): The Sanitary Commissioner may be asked to choose sites.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I am not sure whether he is the person, because the site chosen must be a site where good drinking water will be available. The Industries Department has been making borings. But what is the result? We find that it has not produced any substantial result. I think it must be somebody, who can find out where drinking water is available, that has to be entrusted with this work, no doubt in consultation with the Sanitary Commissioner.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): My question was with reference to some practical difficulties in the way. The Sanitary Commissioner recommends that wells should be sunk in different places, and the P. W. Department has to carry out this proposal. There is that difficulty. I want to know whether Mr. Thanu Pillai would object to the transfer of the responsibility for sinking wells to the Sanitary Commissioner?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): If that is found to be more feasible, I do not understand why there should be any difficulty. If the Sanitary Department proposes to sink a well in a particular place and the matter is communicated to the Department of Public Works, why should there be any difficulty in this. For instance, if a building is to be built up for the use of a court, the matter is communicated to the P. W. D. and they put up the building. That is what takes place. Why should there be any difficulty with regard to the sinking of wells?

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): There is the practical difficulty that wells are not being sunk as desired.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It may probably be because the Sanitary Department is not discharging its duties efficiently or because the P. W. D. Department is not discharging its duties efficiently; or it may be both. I do not know who is responsible for that.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): What is the member's opinion with regard to the Sanitary Commissioner sending up a list for sinking wells every year to the Government?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then the Government should ask the Public Works Department to attend to the requisitions of the Sanitary Commissioner. If they cannot attend to this, what are the P. W. D. Officers doing. The allotments have gone down considerably. They have no work as in former years. Why should they find it difficult?

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): The allotment under sinking wells also has come down.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): So, they will find it very easy to sink as many wells as the Sanitary Commissioner wants. It is a minor matter. If the Government really want this to be done, they should ask the P. W. D. to do it. Is it the suggestion that the P. W. D. Officers do not find time or that they are not able or neglect their duty. It is for the Government to see that every officer discharges his duty properly. If it is found expensive to sink these wells by the

P. W. D., Government may very well authorise the Sanitary Commissioner and see that the work is done. But from the point of view of efficiency and economy, probably the P. W. D. will be in a better position than the Sanitary Department; because they are concerned with these kinds of works. I do not wish to take more time of the Council. I strongly support the resolution.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): While supporting the resolution of Mr. Damodaran Asan, I wish to bring to the notice of the House and the Government that the lack of good drinking water is not confined to South Travancore and especially to Onattukara alone.

PRESIDENT: Has not Mr. Damodaran Asan amended his resolution so as to apply to all places?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I will gladly accept the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Otherwise all these speeches are strictly irrelevant.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): No formal amendment has been proposed.

PRESIDENT: Shall I take it that your resolution now is "that steps should be taken to supply good drinking water wherever it is not available in Travancore."?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): If anybody will suggest an amendment I will accept it.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Qui on*): "To supply drinking water in the rural areas of Travancore wherever it is absolutely necessary."

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): "In all areas where there is scarcity of water."

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): "In the coastal pakuthies where it is absolutely necessary."

MR. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): In my constituency also there are such villages like Munambom, Vadakakara and Thrikakara. These pakuthies do not get good drinking water at all. The water there is brackish. People there are not able to sink deep wells as the people of Onattukara, especially at this season of depression. The want of good drinking water has been a source of trouble to the people of these places. Epidemic diseases such as small-pox were ranging in Munambom year before the last, and the people of that place were making representations to the Sanitary Commissioner; and the Sanitary Commissioner after investigating it promised a few wells; and two years and more have gone by with no tangible result. The people are sending up memorials and making representations to the Sanitary Commissioner, and not to the P. W. D. Officers; because he was the person who visited their places at the time of the epidemic and who suggested that the epidemic was caused by lack of good drinking water. I do not know what the Government have done in this matter. I do not know whether he has submitted any suggestion to Government. One thing I know and that is that the people of Munambom have not got wells sunk for them. If

[Mr. Gopalakrishna Pillai.]

the Government would be pleased to take up this matter and work it up, the people of these places would be much relieved and they would be very thankful. Not only in these pakuthies but in the interior parts also, water is not available; because in some places wells have to be sunk very deep. So, not only in the coastal villages, but in interior parts also such a necessity is felt; and if, as my friend Mr. Govindan suggested, a survey is conducted and proper arrangements made for sinking wells wherever it is necessary, it would be a great source of relief. With these words I support the resolution.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Sir, I am tempted to speak on this resolution by a remark made by Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai with regard to the want of sympathy on the part of officials. When the discussion on this resolution was proceeding, I happened to take a distant view of the local Nazareth from which we are accustomed to expect any good to come out. Most of the officials were busily engaged in their own pursuit and I think it is the kind of sympathy that they wish to extend to this resolution.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Can it not be because they are in full agreement?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I am suffering from a kind of temporary deafness. I expect every member who interrupts me to speak loudly.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): I am heard, I believe?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I did not hear.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Can it not be because the officers are in full agreement with the spirit of the resolution.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I do not think so; because if they are really in sympathy with the resolution they would not have certainly read newspapers. That is not an expression of sympathy when we discuss a resolution like this in this Council. Sir, there is certainly some antithesis between the Government and the people. When a representation of the people on one side of the House raises the cry for good drinking water, and when on the other side of the House there is a kind of real or an affected deafness to that cry, it certainly shows that there is something radically wrong with the scheme of things in Travancore. Mr. Thanu Pillai said about certain proposals for retrenchment which were considered by the Committee of which he himself is a member to represent the popular side of this House. I put him a question when he was talking on the resolution whether...

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): Is the member in order, Sir?

PRESIDENT: On what?

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): Is he speaking on the resolution before the House?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I put him a question whether the Retrenchment Committee approved of less important expenditure. He said he was not in a position to answer a question like that. Now if you quote examples in other countries from which this Government often derive examples, I think the tone on the part of Government and of officials will be proved by a choice of one fact. In most of the Governments in India, as well as outside, the situation brought about by this international depression, has induced, has almost enforced, Government officials ...

PRESIDENT: Mr. Thomas, will you please confine yourself to matters relevant to this particular resolution?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I am speaking of the want of sympathy on the part of officials.

PRESIDENT: Want of sympathy is not the resolution.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I am talking of the resolution and whatever is likely to arise out of this resolution.

PRESIDENT: That has not much to do with the resolution unless you make it relevant.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): What I say is, Mr. President, that I was surprised at the attitude with which this resolution was discussed in this House. That, I believe is relevant to this question. That attitude on the part of the Government and their officials has been in sharp, marked contrast with the attitude that has been noticed elsewhere. In the course of the discussion, whether retrenchment has been sufficiently effected has also been introduced; and my own contention is that retrenchment has not been sufficiently effected in this country. I apprehend that this resolution is likely to be opposed on the ground of paucity of funds.

PRESIDENT: Why should you not wait till that is done?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I apprehend this resolution is likely to be opposed on the ground of paucity of funds.

PRESIDENT: Why not wait till that is done?

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): That is my own apprehension. That cannot be wrong. In that case it is for the officials to correct and say that it is not so. It is not possible to express any opinion in this House on any question unless individual expression of opinion is allowed.

PRESIDENT: Unless you are trying to bring in matters irrelevant, all relevant questions can be discussed.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Mr. President, what I fear is.....

PRESIDENT: Don't say "Mr. President". Say "Mr. President, Sir." That is the proper form.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Mr. President, Sir, what I fear is that Government may say that they have no money. But money could be found if satisfactory retrenchment is effected in public expenditure. The relative needs and the urgency of the needs must be taken into consideration when public expenditure is sketched out. The need for good drinking water is an absolutely physical need. There is no getting over that; whereas the needs to which the Government now cater are more or less of the character of luxury. If no other way is open to Government to find funds for this very urgent need for good drinking water, then Government, if they have any measure of sympathy for the needs of the people, must, in the last resort at least, come forward with a substantial reduction in the pay and allowances of officials. That is one of the methods of finding sufficient funds for carrying out the resolution for the supply of good drinking water. I am still further afraid that as the scope of the resolution has been widened there is more likelihood on the part of the Government assuming an attitude of non-posumus. That is why I have been discussing at some pains the question of retrenchment. But, as you have called me on the question of relevancy, I do not think it necessary to make any further observations on that subject. But, whether sufficient funds are found this year or next year, this question will remain with the Government of Travancore for a long time to come. This is a question which is put forward by the representatives of the people irrespective of seasonal agitation. This is a permanent necessity which the Government will have to face one day or other, and funds will have to be provided for catering the real and felt requirement.

Somebody in the course of the discussion raised a question whether this matter of providing good drinking water could not be entrusted to the Village Panchayats. Nobody knows when the Village Panchayats are going to be worked satisfactorily to the extent of providing good drinking water in all the rural areas where there is scarcity of that article of every day consumption; so that national finance will have to bear this strain of expenditure on this question before we develop Village Panchayats to a high state of efficiency. In course of time more of these demands are likely to be brought forward by the people and some system of regulating public finance is necessary to satisfy the requirements of the people. And in giving effect to this resolution, I hope the Government will not consider the question of the present economic depression to such an extent as to affect the resolution prejudicially. I support the resolution.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): In the first place, I have to thank Mr. Thanu Pillai for his strong plea on behalf of the people of South Travancore. While supporting the resolution, ...

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether he is not thankful to him for supporting the cause of the people of North and Middle Travancore?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I make special reference to South Travancore. While fully accepting the resolution moved by Mr. Asan in regard to Onattukara, I have only to remind the Government that they should not overlook the sad plight of people similarly

circumstanced in other parts of Travancore as Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai wanted me to do.

PRESIDENT : Has not Mr. Asan amended his resolution?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): No.

PRESIDENT : He has accepted the amendment.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Yes, I have accepted the amendment.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): From the sense of the House, and in view of the fact that Mr. Asan has accepted the amendment, certainly it is superfluous to refer to any parochial needs. Still I cannot resist the temptation to refer to one particular place in my constituency. In the Karimkulam Pakuthi, which is a coastal area, people have to go two or three miles inland to get water. It is dirty and brackish water that they use. As Mr. Thanu Pillai pointed out, during the last cholera epidemic this was the area where there was an intensive outbreak. So, my request to Government is that while certainly not overlooking the claims of Onattukara and other rural areas, special attention should be paid to the sad plight of the people inhabiting the coastal areas in the Karimkulam Pakuthi. Whether it be done by means of the boring machine or other machines I do not care. I only request that these people be supplied with good drinking water. With these words I support the resolution.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Sir, I support the motion, and, in doing so, in the absence of any particular local grievance, I wish to confine myself to the tracts referred to by Mr. Asan. I claim to know personally something about the places included in the areas originally covered by Mr. Asan's motion. I fully endorse all the points urged in support of the motion by my friends here; but my chief point in supporting the motion in its original form is that these tracts are inhabited by a set of people known as Arayas, very fine people, highly cultured, though not on modern lines; and I may even say that they are one of the finest of the sections of His Highness's subjects. Most of you might not have seen any of them. I believe some members of this community were being nominated to sessions of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly from time to time; but, of course, we know that the nominated members are not the proper stuff to represent the best of a community. If these people are properly cared for, I am sure they would form a source of pride for the Government. In spite of their avocation, fishing, they are extremely clean in their thought, habit, character, methods and outlook. They suffer from very serious disadvantages owing to the fact that they are cut off from the mainland. There are no proper roads, there is not even a Government English School in the whole area, and I believe not even a recognised private institution. If they continue like this.....

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether these are due to scarcity of water?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Due to the want of sympathy they experience at the hands of the Government. If the Government continue to treat them in this unsympathetic way, I am afraid that that fine section—I repeat—of the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja might become extinct. My point is that either the Government have to provide them—of course it is not possible because their main industry is fishing—with some places here on the mainland or they ought to, in particular consideration of the qualities mentioned by me, extend a helping hand to them.

MR. R. VAIDYALINGOM PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies, of Joint Stock Companies and Protector of depressed classes*): Was there not a Member of the Legislative Council from this community?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Not exactly from this area. Of course, there was a member of the Legislative Council, a nominated one. But that does not mean anything by way of help rendered by Government to that community. A member of the Legislative Council cannot work miracles; he is no remedy for all the ills the community suffers from.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether it is not some recognition?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): It is; but that does not bring good drinking water. It does not bring any other advantages which the Government can afford to particular sections of the people.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Did he not plead for that?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): He might have pleaded for that. My friend Mr. O. M. Thomas is afraid that the people in these areas would have to wait, and wait long, for the introduction of the Village Panchayat system to get good drinking water. My submission is that these tracts, referred to by Mr. Asan, are the fittest for the introduction, even at the outset, of the Village Panchayat system; because they satisfy the conditions required by the Regulation. I think therefore that it would be proper if the Village Panchayat system is first put into operation in these areas. I do not agree with Mr. Asan when he says that no water cess need be levied on these people in consideration of the fact that they are poor. They are not so poor as Mr. Asan thinks. Probably, Mr. Asan has not taken into consideration that aspect of their industry which brings them more money than Agriculture or any other avocation with which people are concerned. Their industry is fishing, which does not go down even in abnormal times in the matter of procuring income. So water cess can very well be levied. My submission is that Government should view the question from all points of view urged by my friends here and particularly from the point of view of enabling a community, a section of the people of the type I have described, to thrive. With these observations I support the resolution.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by my friend, Mr. Asan, with the amendment just made. In doing so, I wish to bring to the notice of the House certain

facts with regard to the Chirayinkil taluk only. My learned friend who spoke about some parts of the Chirayinkil taluk has already informed this House what amount of difficulty is being experienced in the coastal regions. He mentioned only three particular places; but I should say that there are many other places also which are in no way better off. At the time of floods, people inhabiting the western side of the taluk, I mean the coastal regions, have to go in canoes nearly one mile up the river to get home drinking water. Accidents are very frequent. This has repeatedly been brought to the notice of the Government through the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, praying for the rectification of the defects as early as possible. I think Government will not be too late to realise the importance of this question and will consider it sympathetically and remove the defects at an early date.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanamparam cum Shencotta*): Sir, I rise to support the resolution as amended. The difficulties that have been expressed by Mr. Asan as applicable to Onattukara, and those that apply to Nanjinad are not restricted to those particular places. Shencotta, for instance, is a place which is subject to periodical outbreaks of cholera. It is notorious they involve ravages of the worst kind. These periodical outbreaks are, in the opinion of experts, due to the scarcity of good drinking water; and one of the greatest problems confronting the taluk of Shencotta could be solved by embarking on a scheme for the supply of good drinking water, I believe several schemes have been before the Government for consideration; but no action has as yet been taken or finally decided upon. When the general question of supplying water to the localities that stand badly in need of water is being considered, I hope Government would extend their sympathetic support also to any scheme that may be drawn up to suit the needs of Shencotta. I support the resolution.

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ജനക്ഷേമത്തിനു എത്രയും അനുതോപേക്ഷിതമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു പ്രമേയമാണിത്. കടിക്കുന്നതിനു വെള്ളം കിട്ടുന്നതിൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ മറ്റു ഭാഗങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ സ്ഥിതി ഏറ്റവും ദുരന്തമായാണ് ഞാൻ പറയാതെത്തന്നെ അറിവുള്ളതാണല്ലോ. കഴിഞ്ഞ ൧൦൪, ൧൦൫ ഈ ആണ്ടുകളിൽ തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള കാലറാബായയുടെ സ്മരണയുടെയും ഹൃദയത്തിൽനിന്നും മാഞ്ഞുപോയിരിക്കാറിട്ടയില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. വെള്ളത്തിൽ നിന്നുമാണ് ഈ വ്യാധി ഉരുവിക്കുന്നതെന്നും പരക്കുന്നതെന്നും സമ്മതിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂർക്കാക്കു കടിക്കുന്നതിനുവെള്ളമില്ലാത്തതുനിമിത്തമുള്ള ബുദ്ധിമുട്ട് എത്രമാത്രമുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി സുവ്യക്തമാണ്. ഇതിലേക്കു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറിംഗ് മെഡിക്കലോഫീസർ സാക്ഷ്യം വഹിക്കുമെന്നു

[Mr. R. S. Subrahmanya Pillai.]

ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു കുടുംബത്തിൽ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം അംഗങ്ങളും സ്വം അനുഭവിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ന്യൂനപക്ഷക്കാർ കടിക്കാൻ വെള്ളമില്ലാത്തതും ക്രമികരോഗങ്ങളും മറ്റും പരിചരിച്ചു അകാലമരണത്തെ പ്രാപിക്കേണ്ടിവരികയാണെങ്കിൽ അതിനെക്കാൾ കഷ്ടതയായിട്ടു മറ്റെന്താണുള്ളത്?

ഇതിന്നു പറ്റമെ ഇപ്പോൾ കാളാപോലെ “ഗിനി ഓ” എന്നൊരു പുത്തൻ രോഗമുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു എന്നും, അതും വെള്ളത്തിൽ നിന്നു തന്നെ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നു എന്നും, ആ രോഗത്തെ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന അണുവിനോ ഉണ്ടായതിൽ പിന്നീടുള്ള അണുവിനോ ധവ ഇഞ്ചു നീളമുണ്ടെന്നും, അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ചർച്ച ചെയ്യുന്നതിനായി അതു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ മെഡിക്കലാഫീസർയച്ചു കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നും അറിയുന്നു. ഇതും പരമാർത്ഥമാണെങ്കിൽ തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ കഥ എന്തായിരിക്കുമെന്നു ഒന്നാലോചിച്ചുനോക്കുക ഹാ കഷ്ടം! ഈ രോഗത്തെ പരിഹരിച്ചു ജനക്ഷേമം പരിപാലിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറുകാർക്കു കടിക്കുന്നതിനു വെള്ളം നൽകേണ്ടതും ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ കടമയാകുന്നു.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvengad*): തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ പല സ്ഥലത്തും “ടബ് വെൽസ്” ഇല്ലേ?

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കാണുമായിരിക്കാം. ആളർ എന്ന സ്ഥലത്തു മുഹമ്മദീയരാണ് അധികവും താമസിക്കുന്നത്. ആ സ്ഥലത്തു നല്ല വെള്ളം കിട്ടത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഒരു കിണറു കെട്ട ഒരു കുളമാകട്ടെയില്ല. അവരുടെ സ്ട്രീറ്റും ലോഷും സംബന്ധമായി ജീവിക്കുന്നവരായതുകൊണ്ടു പ്രഭാതത്തിനു മുൻപുതന്നെ ഒന്നും ഒന്നരയും മയിൽ അകലെ പോയി വെള്ളം കൊണ്ടുവന്നു കുഴിച്ചുകുളങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനത്തു വെള്ളം കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനായി പോകേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ അവർ അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾ ഒട്ടും ചില്ലറയല്ല. ആ പ്രദേശത്തു ഒരു കിണറു വെട്ടുവാൻ എസ്റ്റിമേറ്റ് അയച്ചു് ആരമാസത്തിനു മേലായെങ്കിലും ഒരു ഫലവും ഇല്ലാത്തയാണിരിക്കുന്നത്.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): കഴിഞ്ഞ കാളാബാധയ്ക്കു ശേഷം വെള്ളം കിട്ടാത്ത സ്ഥലത്തു വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നും ചില ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലേ?

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): മുട്ടം എന്ന സ്ഥലത്തു വെള്ളം കിട്ടാത്ത വലുത്തു കൊണ്ടിരുന്നതിന്റെ

ഫലമായി ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നും തന്നെ ഒരു മോട്ടാർ ലോറി വച്ചു അ കലെ നിന്നും വെള്ളം കൊടുത്തുവന്നിരുന്നു; ഇപ്പോഴില്ല.

അതിനാൽ കുടിക്കാൻ വെള്ളം നല്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ കാര്യം പ്രത്യേകം ആലോചിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അ പേക്ഷയോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): സർ, മി: കൺസ്ട്രക്ഷൻ ചീഫ് യുടെ ഭേദഗതിയോടുകൂടിയ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും പൊതുജനക്ഷേമത്തെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചു ജാതിമതഭേദം കൂടാതെ വെള്ളം കിട്ടത്തക്കവണ്ണം പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും കിണറുകൾ വെട്ടിതന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ അധഃകൃ തരെ തീണ്ടലുള്ള ജാതിക്കാരെന്നും പറഞ്ഞു അകറ്റി നിർത്തിവരുന്നതാ യിട്ടു എന്നിരിക്കുകയാം. ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരുവശത്ത് അധഃകൃതർക്ക് വെള്ളം കുടി ക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിലുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്; ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ആ വഴിയിൽകൂടി ചിലതെല്ലാം പ്ര വർത്തിക്കുന്നുമുണ്ട്. എങ്കിലും ഈ പ്രതിബന്ധം എല്ലാ സ്ഥലത്തും തീർന്നു കിട്ടിയിട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഇവിടെ പറയാതിരിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അധഃകൃതർക്ക് വൃത്തിയില്ല; വെള്ളത്തിനു വില കൊടുക്ക ണ്ടല്ലോ; ഒന്നുകൂടി നനച്ചുകുളിച്ചു വരുത്തും എന്നൊക്കെ പല മഹാ ന്മാരും ഇവരെ കുറപ്പെടുത്താറുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ നല്ല വെള്ളത്തിൽ കുളിക്കാനോ നല്ല വെള്ളം കുടിക്കാനോ നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിലുള്ള അധഃകൃതർക്ക് നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ ആഗ്രഹം. വെള്ളം കി. ട്രാത്ത സ്ഥലത്തു് വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട നടപടികൾ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് നടത്തിവരുമ്പോൾ വെള്ളത്തിന് ഒരു ചെറിയ കൂലികൂടി അധഃകൃതർ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവരികയില്ലേ എന്നുകൂടി ഞാൻ സംശയിക്കുന്നു. അതിനാൽ അധഃകൃതനെന്നോ അധികൃതനെന്നോ ഉള്ള വ്യത്യാസം കൂടാതെ എല്ലാവർക്കും വെള്ളം കിട്ടത്തക്കരീതിയിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. അധഃകൃതർ കുടിപാർപ്പുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ മറ്റുള്ളവർക്കും വെള്ളം ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനു സൗകര്യം കിട്ടത്തക്ക രീതിയിൽ കിണറുകൾ വെട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കണമെന്ന് അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution before the House. Somehow or other too much emphasis is laid on the necessity of supplying good drinking

[Mr. K. P. Madhavan Pillai.]

water in south Travancore and in the *pakuthies* near Onattukara. I support the resolution lest it be understood that the taluks of North Travancore are not victims of this difficulty.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I remind my friend that the resolution has been amended?

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): Yes, I understand that.

I wish to bring to the notice of this Council and the Government that important towns like Alleppey and adjacent places are also lacking, absolutely lacking, in the supply of good drinking water, especially the taluk of Shertallai where drinking water could be had only from tanks. The Sanitary Commissioner, when once he visited the place, remarked that the outbreaks of epidemics such as small-pox and cholera are almost due to the scarcity of good drinking water. I have to thank myself that, though such a resolution was not brought in by me, I can take shelter under this resolution. I lay special emphasis on the fact that there is absolute necessity of supplying good drinking water not only in the taluk of Shertallai but also in the town of Alleppey where good drinking water is very rare.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): I suppose that in these places there is no dearth of water?

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): There may be a sufficient quantity of water but it is a question of healthy drinking water. I understand that water, especially in the wells in Alleppey, has the appearance of the decoction of tea or coffee and there are sufficient indications that it is not healthy.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): May I remind my friend that I have stood the shock for 37 years?

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): I am not aware of that. With these few words, I support the resolution.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I fully sympathise with the spirit of the resolution. But, I am afraid that in the form as it stands at present, it is impracticable to accept it. Even as it was first moved by Mr. Asan and confined to a small locality it would have been a large enough undertaking; but as it rolled round the Council chamber it grew to such dimensions as to become an entirely impracticable proposition for the Government to undertake. The resolution as it now stands recommends the Government to provide drinking water wherever it may not be available in the State.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that members said that everything should be done all at once. They said that there must be a scheme and that it should be worked out gradually.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): What is the approximate amount that Government propose to spend in the town of Trivandrum in the matter of water-supply?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): A little over fifty lakhs of rupees.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know what is the amount spent till now for rural water-supply?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I do not think that there is any record for that.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Would there be any difficulty in carrying out the scheme by providing a minimum for every year even including lean years with an increase in fat years?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): There will be no difficulty in giving effect to that eventually.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Is there anything wrong in suggesting that a minimum should be spent every year on the supply of this important necessity?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I should have no objection at all.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): You can increase the allotment when you have more funds.

PRESIDENT: What is the allotment this year?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): For water supply, it is Rs. 12,000 for new works and Rs. 5,500 for works in progress; and there is some allotment for utilisation by the Sanitary Commissioner.

Judging from your remarks, I take it that the principle may be accepted. Therefore, I need only speak on some of the individual points which have been raised here and the possible means of giving effect to them.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): If the Chief Engineer would come to the front, we could hear him better.

(*The Chief Engineer came to the front and continued.*)

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): Mr. Asan's resolution as it first stood is the basis of the amended resolution as it now stands and I propose therefore to deal with the area covered by his resolution a great many references had been made in the discussion to-day to lack of sympathy on the part of Government. I must say that in reading through the records of this case, I can find no evidence of lack of sympathy. The chief reason why much has not been done is due to the difficulty in working out any practicable scheme.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Is the Department spending the whole allotment under this item every year?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): It is not always spent, mainly for lack of a practicable scheme. There is no object in wasting money on useless schemes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Under the head of Water-supply?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I am speaking about the supply of water in the coastal areas. The reason why very little has been done is undoubtedly because it is not a practicable proposition. Some of those proposals which have been made by the members have been proposals of a very expensive type, and I should only be too glad to receive a practicable proposal. There have been proposals to sink tube wells and pumping water from the mainland but without a full realisation of the financial implications involved. The member himself mentioned a proposal which is estimated to cost approximately Rs. 30,000. I do not know what is really intended in that scheme, whether it is boring or pumping water. Anyhow the initial expenditure is likely to be not less than Rs. 30,000 and a very big annual maintenance is also necessary. Reference has been made to Mr. Vaipan's suggestion for sinking tube wells. Mr. Vaipan proposed this scheme as a last hope to relieve the distress of the people in coastal areas. He inspected the place last year in April and found that there was little prospect of finding fresh water by shallow wells and finally said that the possibility of deep borings had not been entirely exhaustive. He does not express a definite expectation that water could be found there but suggested it, as it were, as a last resort. That proposal was referred to the Director of Industries—why, I don't know—presumably because the Director of Industries had some special knowledge of geology. Any way, it was referred to him for opinion and he reported adversely on the proposal. He pointed out that the whole of the backwater area consisted of silt, sand and other materials being deposits of soil washed down from the Travancore hills, and that the subsoil consequently might reasonably be expected to contain salt water. I agree with that opinion and do not feel optimistic about deep borings in that area. I do not say that it is entirely impossible. There have been cases where deep boring has disclosed fresh water in unlikely places.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): What is the depth to which this investigation was conducted?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): It has not been conducted. The proposal was dropped. They bored up to a depth of over 300 feet at Cochin without finding any good water coming in reasonable quantities; and the work cost nearly Rs. 75,000. This was probably an excessive figure. But I think a reasonable figure to be spent on deep borings might easily come to twenty or thirty thousand rupees including the cost of pipes plant, and the deeper you bore the more expensive it will be. Shallow boring requires pipes of small diameter and more expensive and larger pipes are required in the case of deep borings.

Several references were made about the boring machine. I am equally mystified as some of the members are. There is a boring machine in the Workshops and Stores Division and it is entirely unsuited for boring in sandy areas. It is called a Calyx Core Drill, and its sole purpose is boring in hard rocks. It is not the type of machine that could be used for boring in sandy areas near the sea.

PRESIDENT : Is that the same machine Mr. Chacko?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Yes, Sir.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will it bore rocks or hard soil?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): Soils hard enough; for solid was to be taken by this drill.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the result of all the boring in south Travancore by the Industries Department? Has it yielded any result?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I have no record of the boring results.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Has any boring work been done after the machine was sent over to the Workshops Division?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I do not know; I found the machine in the Workshops when I came to the State and do not know its past history.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is any use being made of it now?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I am not aware of any use being made.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Was it purchased at the suggestion of the P. W. D. Workshops Division or at the instance of the Director of Industries?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I am sorry I cannot give any information on these points. I found the machine in the Workshops when I came here. I did not expect that it would be questioned in the course of the discussion.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Was the machine ordered with the ostensible intention of ascertaining the existence of mineral oil at Alleppey?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I have no information regarding that.

An estimate for Rs. 4,275 was prepared in 1928 for the sinking of three wells in the coastal village of Trikunnappuzha. At that time, the President of the Kesavavilasam Co-operative Society offered to give the land for one of the wells. The other two wells were to be sunk in private lands. There has been a good deal of difficulty in the formal handing over charge of the land. Mr. Jacob reported in the middle of July that the land had been taken over and that he proposed to sink the well as soon as he could. Apart from that, we have estimates for three other wells of which one has been actually constructed. That one is near the vernacular school in Edakad near Mangalam. The work was completed last year, and I understand it is a successful one. Last month, an estimate for the sinking of two wells in Alapad was received and I propose to sanction it and get work started as soon as possible. One of the chief difficulties in rapid progress in such cases is the securing of the land.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Is it because land has to be acquired?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): Usually land has to be acquired.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): So proceedings take some time. Is difficulty experienced in the course of land acquisition proceedings or is it because Government hesitate to acquire lands?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): Not that Government hesitate to acquire lands.

The House adjourned for lunch at 2-5 P. M. and met again at 2-45 P. M. with the Deputy President in the chair.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): When the Council rose for lunch, I was dealing with the work which had been or is being done in the coastal areas which the resolution referred. I was mentioning 3 estimates for wells which are being or are to be sunk.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I remind the Chief Engineer that the resolution as it is amended and accepted by the mover refers not only to the supply of water in the coastal areas but to the supply of water throughout the State wherever there is scarcity of water.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I quite realise that. In addition to the need for water supply throughout the state several members referred also to irrelevant topics such as the work of the Retrenchment Committee. I wish to confine my remarks strictly to the subject under discussion and so on dealing first with the primary basis of the resolution. An estimate for 3 wells was sanctioned in 1928 and we are just taking up the work because we got lands only just now. One well was constructed at Edakad and estimate for the other two is about to be sanctioned because they are within my power. Altogether we are working on six wells in that area. We have done nothing in the direction of pumping water into the area from anywhere else.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): But could not wells be sunk in other parts of the coastal regions also. I mean 'Trikunnappuzha or Karunagappalli?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I am afraid I do not know precisely the localities that you are referring to. If they are between the sea and the backwater the chances of fresh water are less particularly if the areas you refer to are further south.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): They are further south.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): Mr. Vipin specifically mentioned in his report that as he went south from the area in which we are now sinking wells there was more and more difficulty in finding fresh water. It was then that he made the suggestion for deep boring. He realised the improbability of being able to get fresh water from shallow wells sunk on the spot. I think his apprehension was

well-grounded. I do not know whether the member has any experience of wells in that area. That is the point upon which, I intended to speak.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know what the proposals of Mr. Vipin were?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): It was the last hope to sink deep borings in the hope of tapping water from what is known as artesian or sub-artesian sources.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Vipin's proposal was to sink further deep in places, where there are impervious rocks, by boring, and find out artesian supplies.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I do not wish to express a definite opinion on that, or to say that it is an entirely impracticable suggestion. It might be alright, but it is undoubtedly a gamble. It might be successful. If the Government are prepared to spend the money, I am quite prepared to carry out the work.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): After Mr. Vipin left, has any experiment been made by the present Chief Engineer?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): The only thing that has been done is with regard to shallow wells. No boring has been done.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know whether that was conducted?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): Primarily because Government had an adverse opinion and, in view of that fact, were not prepared at that time to spend money on it. The proposal was referred to the Director of Industries.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): You say that Government had an adverse opinion. May I know from the member whether.....

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): That opinion was based on the geological conditions at the site.

On account of the adverse geological opinion the suggestion has not followed. Presumably, Government were not prepared to spend money on what would after all be a gamble.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Was the Geologist consulted? That is what I want to know.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I do not say that Government have given up that scheme; the suggestion was merely not acted upon up till now.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Has any alternative proposal been suggested by the Chief Engineer?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): Yes, the proposal referred to by the member, of pumping water from the mainland.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Which of these is more adoptable in the opinion of the member?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): What do you mean by "adoptable"?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): You have suggested four ways of finding out water. What is it that you could adopt as a practicable proposition? Is it the last one or the third?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I think the third one is the most practicable suggestion and for that money is forthcoming.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member know that the co-operative society of the locality undertook to transport drinking water from the eastern tract and intimated that to Government. But the Government refused to render any help. Is the member aware of any such thing?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I am not aware of that.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): The member said that it would be very expensive to pump water from the opposite side of the backwater to benefit the people. What would be the approximate cost of transporting water in case the backwater is about one mile in breadth?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I am afraid I cannot give the figure on that because I do not know how much the source of supply would cost.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): Supposing the village is situated one mile or half a mile from the source of the water, what will be the approximate cost of pumping water?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): There are three items in the cost. First is the developing of the source, the second is the transport of the water to the other side, and the third is the distribution. As I have no information whatsoever regarding possible sources of supply, I am not prepared to give any definite figure. I am of opinion, however, that a minimum expenditure of Rs. 40,000 would be necessary for such a water-supply scheme apart from the expense of maintenance.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): If people would undertake to supply half the cost, will the Government be sympathetic enough to meet the balance in the matter of supplying drinking water?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I am afraid I cannot speak with regard to the policy of the Government. I can only say that that is the principle upon which the Madras Government invariably act. In the case of water-supply schemes in the Madras Presidency if people are willing to pay half the cost and agree to maintain it subsequently the Madras Government almost invariably agree to subscribe the other half.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): If the village gives an undertaking to that effect, will the Government of Travancore be sympathetic enough to meet the other half of the cost and carry on work on the recommendation of the Chief Engineer on the lines adopted in Madras?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Has Mr. Vipin recommended that?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): He referred to it. As a practicable proposition, it is too expensive to undertake. Mr. Vipin mentioned that fact in his report.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What is the decision of Government in the matter as it stands? Has anything been done?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): There are no funds at present for expensive schemes. The Department is proceeding with the simplest solution namely, sinking of wells in those areas in the hope that they will meet the ordinary situation.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is the member aware that there are ordinary wells which do not yield good drinking water?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I have heard that that is the case. We propose to sink our wells in places where fresh water is expected. It is understood that when wells are sunk in certain portions of the tracts, they only yield fresh water during the rains and in the hot weather, no good water is available from them.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is it the member's opinion that no investment need be made on that part of the State for the supply of drinking water to the people?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): What is the meaning of "investment"?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): To spend money on what is necessary, namely, supply of good drinking water. I am drawing the member's pointed attention to the locality known as Karunagapalli.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): Is that in the southern portion of the same area?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know whether the Government proposes to spend any money in whatever form or by whatever means—to supply drinking water to the people of Karunagapalli?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): So far as I am aware, Government are willing to spend money to a reasonable extent anywhere in the State?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sinking two deep wells and supplying drinking water by transporting from the eastern portions are the two reasonable suggestions. If all these are impracticable may I know whether there is any other practicable suggestion from the member?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): There are four alternative methods of dealing with the situation. One is sinking a deep well which is a gamble, the second is pumping water from the mainland which is certainly very expensive, the third is to continue the present measure of sinking shallow wells, and the fourth would be to evacuate the population from places where fresh water cannot be obtained in the hot weather. I should have no hesitation in recommending such a proposal to Government.

[Mr. J. S. Westerdale.]

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai raised the point of the Trivandrum water supply. But he did not speak about the full implication of the scheme.

The maintenance of the scheme will be very costly. The expenditure this year for rural water supply is Rs. 12,000. When the Trivandrum water supply is worked out, it will cost five or six times that amount for maintaining it alone. We already have very big financial commitments ahead in the direction of water supply and that is one of the reasons why I say that the resolution, as it is worded, is impracticable. I must report that the proposal has my fullest personal sympathy, and from the records of rural water supply available with me, it has undoubtably had the full sympathy of Government. Provided the resolution is amended recommending that Government will continue to do their best to meet the needs of rural water supply scheme, I have no objection to accept it.

Mr. Thanu Pillai is not here for the moment. I should like to mention with reference to the estimate for the bridge he referred to, that my recollection was that when we first estimated for that bridge there was no question of water supply involved. During the interval I have verified that impression and found that the proposal was put forward merely on the ground of the need for a bridge to get from one side of the canal to the other. The construction had to be postponed for reasons of financial stringency.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): What does the Chief Engineer say about the well at Munambom in the Parur taluk?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I remember a reference on the subject but do not remember the details.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Have you prepared an estimate for the same?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I will look into that question.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): In view of the fact that the question of water supply has been brought to the notice of Government, will the Government be pleased to construct a bridge between Chackai and Vallakkadavu even this year?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I cannot give any assurance to the member. At the present stage, no new works could be taken up.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): But the work has been provided for in the budget.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): The amount has been surrendered and I have no further power to spend the amount originally provided in the Budget.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Cannot the Chief Engineer ask Government to allot some money by way of supplementary grant in view of the fact that there is scarcity of water on that side?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): Government themselves can do what they please in the matter in the light of the discussion that is taking place. It is not for me to approach Government in the present financial circumstances.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know how many wells were sunk in south Travancore during 1106?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I have not got that information now. Wells were sunk by two or three different agencies. The Sanitary Commissioner can dig a well not costing more than Rs. 250. The Revenue authorities dig wells in villages. We dig wells costing Rs. 250 and over. I cannot give you exact figures on this question at the present moment.

Mr. Govindan suggested that a special officer should be appointed to report on the necessity for wells and to select sites. I think there is already an officer for that purpose. It is the duty of the Sanitary Commissioner to do so. What is really needed eventually and must be provided to develop water supply scheme both in municipal and rural areas in this State is that there should be a definite branch of the Public Works Department as is obtaining in Madras. There should be a Sanitary Engineer as he is called in Madras or a Public Health Engineer as he is called in other parts of India whose definite work should be to investigate water supply schemes, follow them up and see that they are carried out. I think one of the principal reasons why wells have not been sunk as quickly as they possibly might have been is the fact that it has been nobody's particular duty to see that it was done. Officers of one department go and inspect places and say a well is necessary here or there. Then an officer of another department inspects and says the site is unsuitable or inconvenient and suggests an alternative site. Then difficulties arise over free offers of land or acquisition of land. There is no definiteness in procedure and the responsibility for giving effect to the proposals existed in no one department. Therefore, as I said, the real need in regard to the supply of water in this State is that there shall be an officer whose duty will be to investigate and follow up such schemes and press them on to the attention of Government and see that they are carried out.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Is the Chief Engineer of the idea that the Sanitary Commissioner.....

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Chief Engineer says that a special officer should be deputed to go round and select a site and see that the work is carried out. In the State, there is no officer at present to do that work. That is the reason why more wells have not been sunk. That is his opinion.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Cannot the Chief Engineer appoint a special officer for the purpose?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): That is for the Government to do. I have nothing more to say.

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (*Inspecting Medical Officer*): The Chief Engineer has told us what has been done already in the matter in specified areas of Onattukara. After the outbreak of cholera in south Travancore, we pressed on the Government the necessity for giving pure drinking water in coastal villages and, as a consequence, Government were pleased to sanction a certain amount to construct tube wells in coastal areas. Our department made attempts in the direction of constructing tube wells. Before taking coastal villages, tube wells were constructed in two places where important festivals are annually held at Pechippara and Suchindram. At Suchindram two tube wells were dug. One was finished last year and I know that during the festival season there is plenty of good drinking water from that tube well. During the cholera time we supplied good drinking water from Nagercoil by motor lorries.

There was one difficulty in connection with tube wells. Local people never pay any attention in the matter of keeping them safe. They manage to spoil the machines in no time. That is one disadvantage.

Then the question of sinking tube wells in coastal villages was taken up. What we found was, down to 30 feet of depth there was pure water and when dug deeper the water was brackish. So it is suggested by the Chief Engineer that wells alone would serve the purpose, i.e., at least in places where tube wells are a failure. We have agreed to that suggestion. As the Chief Engineer has explained the difficulty of constructing tube wells in coastal districts, I think I need not expatiate on that. Government are fully alive to the necessity of supplying drinking water. It is a big problem. This is a feature of not only one place, but of all parts of the State. There are numerous places without water for drinking purposes. Anyhow, no doubt, as Government are alive to the necessity of supplying drinking water and as they have made some attempts in constructing ordinary or tube wells at suitable places, as time comes, Government will certainly devote some more attention to this important question. In the light of what has been stated by the Chief Engineer in the course of the discussion, I trust Mr. Asan would see his way to withdraw the resolution on the assurance that Government would look into the matter and do the needful as they are alive to the necessity of good water for rural areas.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Does the member realise that the resolution recommends to Government to pay more attention to this matter and as such may I know whether the Government accept the resolution or not?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (*Inspecting Medical Officer*): The principle of the resolution is accepted so far as ...

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know from the member what is it that is unacceptable in the resolution?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (*Inspecting Medical Officer*): The necessity for supplying good drinking water is accepted and Government are doing all that they can.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (Karunagapalli) : I wish to know whether the Inspecting Medical Officer has ever visited the coastal regions in Karunagapalli.

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (Inspecting Medical Officer) : No occasion for the same has arisen.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (Karunagapalli) : Has any officer in charge of general sanitation and public health in the State ever visited the coastal regions?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (Inspecting Medical Officer) : My impression is that villages are being visited by the officers responsible for the same.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (Karunagapalli) : Places about which the complaint has arisen—may I know whether these localities have been visited?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (Inspecting Medical Officer) : These places were not brought to my notice.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (Karunagapalli) : Am I to understand that the member is not in a position to offer any advice in regard to the imminent necessity of doing something in those regions for the sake of the distressed?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (Inspecting Medical Officer) : I recognise the necessity for that. But without going to the spot, I cannot suggest measures.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (Karunagapalli) : Has the member ever recommended that, in places where good water is not available, water might be transported from those places where available and the cost of transport borne by the Government?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (Inspecting Medical Officer) : That was done at Suchindram.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (Karunagapalli) : Has the member recommended that with regard to other places?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (Inspecting Medical Officer) : Nobody ever drew my attention to that matter.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (Karunagapalli) : Is it the opinion of the member that Government are at fault for not drawing the member's attention to it?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (Inspecting Medical Officer) : I did not say so. The matter was not brought to Government's attention either.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (Karunagapalli) : In places where it is not practicable to afford relief on the lines suggested by the Chief Engineer, will the member approve of the suggestion to grant something in the way of grant-in-aid to those localities?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (Inspecting Medical Officer) : I do know how that system would work.

At Suchindram, as a matter of fact, there was every convenience. The entire population is known to us and we managed the construction of a tube well very economically.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): That is with regard to Mr. Govindan's wealthy village. What about the poor villages in my place? As a last resort I ask whether Government could not contribute something and undertake to supply water.

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (*Inspecting Medical Officer*): That is a thing which will have to be considered by the Government.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What I ask the member is whether the policy that has been suggested by the member would be extended to the villages of Karunagapalli which for the last so many years is suffering without good water.

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (*Inspecting Medical Officer*): The question has to be examined in all its aspects.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I wish the Inspecting Medical Officer to make his position clear. Does he accept the principle of the motion and still oppose it?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (*Inspecting Medical Officer*): No, I do not.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Then, may I know whether there is any difficulty in accepting the motion as such? What is the meaning of saying that the principle of the motion is accepted and so on?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (*Inspecting Medical Officer*): I have no objection at all to accept the principle underlying the resolution provided...

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): കൽക്കളം, വിളവങ്കോട്, ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ എവിടെ എങ്കിലും കിണറുണ്ടുണ്ടോ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: അതിനെപ്പറ്റി പിന്നീട് പറയാം.

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): കൽക്കളം, വിളവങ്കോട്, എന്നീ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ കാളറ ഉണ്ടായ കാലത്തു ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (*Inspecting Medical Officer*): പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കാളറ ഉണ്ടാകാൻ കാരണമെന്താണ്?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (*Inspecting Medical Officer*): കാളറ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നത് നല്ല വെള്ളം ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടല്ല. എന്നാൽ കാളറ പരക്കുന്നത് നല്ല വെള്ളത്തിന്റെ കുറവുകൊണ്ടാണ്.

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കാളറ ഉണ്ടായ സ്ഥലത്തു മെമ്പർ അവിടെ പോയി അന്നത്തെ പത്മനാഭപുരം മുനിസിപ്പൽ പ്രസിഡൻറുമായി കാളറ പിടിപെട്ട സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പരിശോധിച്ചു നോക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (*Inspecting Medical Officer*): ഞാൻ പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നല്ല വെള്ളം കറവാണെന്നു മെമ്പർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (*Inspecting Medical Officer*): നല്ല വെള്ളം കറവായതുകൊണ്ടാണു കാളറാ പരക്കുന്നതെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): നല്ല വെള്ളം കറവായിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്ക് ഈ പ്രമേയം സ്വീകരിച്ചാൽ എന്താണ്?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (*Inspecting Medical Officer*): പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ നല്ല വെള്ളം എല്ലാ സ്ഥലത്തും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതു സമ്മതിക്കാം.

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): കൽക്കളം, വിളവങ്കോട്, ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ നല്ല വെള്ളം കറവായിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കിണറുകൾ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നറിയാമോ?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (*Inspecting Medical Officer*): എല്ലാ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും കിണറുകൾ അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. ഞാൻ ഒരു താലൂക്കിനെപ്പറ്റി മാത്രമല്ല പറയുന്നത്.

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): കൽക്കളം, വിളവങ്കോട്, ഈ രണ്ടു താലൂക്കുകളിലും കിണറുകൾ അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നറിയാമോ?

DR. K. RAMAN TAMPI (*Inspecting Medical Officer*): അതെ. അവിടെയും അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kārtikapalli*): Sir, I have only one or two words to say. First of all, I am very happy that my resolution has been so amended as to be applicable to the whole State. The resolution has been framed in order to apply to the coastal *pakuthies* of Onattukara alone, because I knew quite well the urgent necessity for water supply there and because it was agreed both by the Government and by the people that there must be some provision to help the poor people of these localities. Since it has already been agreed that there is necessity for supply of drinking water to the coastal *pakuthies* of those places, I am sure Government will take steps immediately for the purpose of sinking wells.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You are now bringing in something which is not in the resolution. You say, 'immediately'. That is a large order.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I did not say "immediately supply drinking water", but only that steps should be taken immediately.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What Mr. Asan meant it is some *tangible* steps, because steps are being taken for the last four or five years regularly without anything tangible resulting.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This is the resolution:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that steps be taken to supply good drinking water wherever it is necessary in Travancore."

This is the resolution as amended.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I did not concede that. If steps were being taken at all now, there would not have been any necessity for this resolution.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This is the exact language. So do not go beyond that.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): We would like to know definitely whether Government accept this resolution or not, and not the principle of the resolution?

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Steps be taken and not merely that.....

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: "Steps be taken", that is the language of the resolution.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): That is with regard to coastal regions; and even with regard to the places mentioned by Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai and Mr. Thanu Pillai there is already necessity for water. There is no necessity for a survey as suggested by Mr. Govindan. Steps could be taken for the supply of water in these places and to ascertain the need for a survey of the places in regard to which there is no information. The resolution as amended would read thus:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that steps be taken to supply good drinking water wherever it is not now available".

I do not think that there will be much difficulty in accepting the resolution as a whole without saying that it is accepted in principle, and reserve something else not to be accepted; because we also stated that steps can be taken gradually. We do not expect Government to conduct an immediate survey of the whole State and start the work all on a sudden. All that we suggest is that this must be taken as a definite scheme and Government should work at it. If Government are prepared to accept that, I do not desire to press it to a division.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: If Government can give an undertaking to take steps—he does not say all at once—to supply good drinking water wherever it is not available, he does not press the resolution to a division. In winding up he was very reasonable. He does not expect you to do the whole thing forthwith. But he expects something to be done within a reasonable period.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I think there is no harm in giving that assurance. Because it appears to me that as far I can see even now it is their policy.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): So are we to understand that things will go on as it is at present?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I will just ask Mr. Westerdale to state definitely whether he can give an assurance that is now asked for, that steps will be taken by Government.

This is the resolution:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that steps be taken to supply good drinking water to the inhabitants of the localities where good drinking water is not available now."

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I feel that I have been called upon to give an assurance on behalf of Government which it is rather difficult for me to give without consulting Government. Because the commitments are so very great. I maintain that Government's policy, which is and has been, for many years, exactly what is required in this resolution, and that all that is required is to call upon officers to see that policy is followed.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: When official members stand up to speak on any motion, the inference is that they are the spokesmen of Government. Mr. Westerdale has been addressing this Council not merely in the capacity of the Chief Engineer of the State, but as the spokesman of the Government, who has been specially empowered to represent the views of the Government, on this particular resolution. Otherwise, there is absolutely no use in any resolution being carried out or any resolution being withdrawn, that the assurance that is given from the official side is not to be regarded as an assurance given for, and on behalf of, the Government. If you feel that you have not taken definite instructions, that is a different matter. Then say, you have not had definite instructions on that matter, and that therefore on behalf of the Government you cannot give any such assurance. That is intelligible, but you cannot escape your obligation by saying, "I am only the Chief Engineer, I do not represent the Government". But by a legal fiction, we assume that you are representing the Government. The spokesman of the Government need not necessarily be the Dewan. It may be any one of you. You have been authorised by Government to represent them here. In that way any undertaking that you give will be viewed by this House as an undertaking given for, and on behalf of, the Government.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): Will you read out, sir, what he was prepared to accept?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This is the resolution in its final form:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that steps be taken to supply drinking water to the inhabitants of the localities where good drinking water is not available now."

[Deputy President.]

Supposing you just take this as the final amendment and form of it, in that broad form, if you say, that this is the policy of Government, what is the difficulty in accepting the resolution?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Is it that steps be taken to supply water all over the State?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This resolution does not suggest, that action must be taken in regard to it all over the State. We want an assurance from the Government that the views of the Government are identical with the views of the people as embodied in this resolution. It is therefore that I asked Mr. Asan when he said "immediately", whether he meant that. And with the resources at the disposal of Government, Government may give an assurance that steps will be taken and carried out. Mr. Asan does not authorise you to levy a special cess for the supply of drinking water. However, I only suggested the particular nature of the assurance to be given from the Government Benches, so that Mr. Asan may carry out his promise of withdrawing the resolution in the light of that assurance. He does not want to press it for a division where after all there is no real controversy between the Government and the non-official Benches.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Are we to wait indefinitely, sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am the final judge.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): May I explain why I hesitate?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have no quarrel with you, Mr. Westerdale. I only want you to state yourself either way. I only want to know the reply of the Government with regard to the proposal of Mr. Asan in this resolution.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I think the Dewan may have an assurance to give.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We have nothing to do with the Dewan.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): But the President?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No other President has any assurance to give to the Council?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I am afraid I cannot. I am unable to accept the resolution. I would rather leave it to the vote.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You oppose it?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): Yes.

The resolution was put to vote and carried.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I demand a poll.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Please stand up, those who are for the resolution.

AYES—26.

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| 1. Mr. K. P. Abraham | 15. Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai |
| 2. „ S. Chattanatha Karayalar | 16. „ K. Madhavan Pillai |
| 3. „ A. S. Damodaran Asan | 17. „ K. P. Madhavan Pillai |
| 4. „ K. Gopalakrishna Pillai | (Chirayinkil) |
| 5. „ M. Govindan | 18. „ M. P. Madhavan Pillai |
| 6. „ N. John Joseph | 19. „ M. Mahomed Mustapha |
| 7. „ Joseph Kunju | 20. „ P. S. Mahomed |
| 8. „ K. I. Kocheppan | 21. „ Rama Varma Raja |
| Mappillai | 22. „ R. S. Subrahmanya Pillai |
| 9. „ K. P. Kochukora Tarakan | 23. „ N. A. Sundaram Pillai |
| 10. „ K. Krishnan Nayar | 24. „ A. Thanu Pillai |
| 11. „ E. V. Krishna Pillai | 25. „ O. M. Thomas |
| 12. „ N. K. Krishna Pillai | 26. „ C. N. Tuppan Namputiri- |
| 13. „ S. Krishna Pillai | pad. |
| 14. „ Tariatu Kunjitomman | |

NOES—15.

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| 1. Mr. L. A. Bishop | 9. Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai |
| 2. „ I. C. Chacko | 10. „ Kayalam Paramesvaran |
| 3. „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai | Pillai |
| 4. „ K. George | 11. „ T. V. Ramakrishna Aiyar |
| 5. Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan | 12. Dr. K. Raman Tampi |
| Pillai | 13. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson |
| 6. Mr. E. G. McAlpine | 14. „ R. Vaidyalingom Pillai |
| 7. „ C. O. Madhavan | 15. „ J. S. Westerdale |
| 8. „ T. K. Madhavan Nayar | |

The resolution was declared carried, 26 voting for the resolution and 15 against.

ABOLITION OF THE NEDUVANGAD TOLL-GATE.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*): Sir, the resolution that stands against my name, is—

“This Council recommends to the Government that the toll-gate at Neduvangad be abolished from the 1st Chingam 1108.”

Sir, there is a general desire on the part of the members on this side of the House that the resolution should be amended so as to embrace all the toll-gates in the State, so that, the resolution as amended, would read—

“This Council recommends to the Government that toll-gates in Travancore be abolished.”

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : It is a large order.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We should have notice of such an alteration.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That is why I am telling him it is a large order.